



Press Release

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Shift2Rail awards two grants under its Call for Proposals 2021

Two projects worth €2.34 million will be funded under Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking targeted Call for Proposals 2021. Shift2Rail's co-funding will amount up to €1.77 million. The new projects launched during the European Year of Rail are set to contribute to a major transformation of rail.

Following this fully open Call, Shift2Rail Members will be involved alongside non-Shift2Rail Members in one project worth €2.17 million, while the other project worth €0.17 million will be undertaken by non-Shift2Rail Members.

The new projects will work on improving European railway under two major topics - 'Digital automated coupler innovation for the European Delivery Programme', related to Shift2Rail's [Innovation Programme 5](#) on rail freight, and 'R&I impact and benefits to make rail attractive for stakeholders', linked to Shift2Rail's [Cross Cutting Activities](#).

In total, 12 participants will develop new solutions for railway systems under the 2021 Call for Proposals.

Carlo Borghini, the Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking, says: *"The rail sector has once again shown its dedication to deliver a major transformation of European rail by applying for our 2021 Call for Proposals, albeit limited in scope and within a short deadline. The new projects will contribute to improving rail freight automation - a much needed solution for rail freight in Europe. We are looking forward to successfully implementing the newly selected projects together with our Members and partners, and to demonstrating their potential to deliver a promising future for railways by paving the way to Shift2Rail's successor programme, Europe's Rail."*

With this Call for Proposals, and in only 5 years, Shift2Rail will have invested €0.8 billion cumulatively in Research and Innovation activities (including Lighthouse Projects), accomplishing its mandate to recover the initial delays and accelerate the delivery of the Programme's innovative solutions. Considering the Additional Activities provided by its Members estimated at €0.2 billion, the Shift2Rail Programme achieved a leverage effect of 2.2 times for each Euro invested by the Union.

About the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking

Shift2Rail is the first European rail public private partnership tasked with developing strategically focused research and innovation (R&I) and market-driven solutions, integrating these to create the railway systems of the future. With a total value of €920 million for the period 2014-2021, funded through the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union, Shift2Rail is promoting the competitiveness of the European rail industry, ensuring the attractiveness of rail as a safe and sustainable low carbon transport mode. This way, Shift2Rail aims to meet the changing transport/mobility needs of EU citizens and the economy.



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